

ENTERIC REFERENCE LABORATORY

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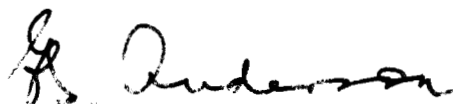
Dear Professor Berg,

I have been studying the correspondence connected with the subject of hybrid plasmids, about which a number of us are concerned, and I notice that in my letter to you of the 9th September I have stated the date of the Asilomar meeting, to which you invited me, as the 27th February, 1975. This was of course an error, in that I omitted the starting date, that is, the 23rd February. I am not quite clear about the form planned for this meeting. Perhaps you would be kind enough to let me have the relevant details.

As I feared, there was some pretty drastic editing of the Controversy programme on television, and this has aroused quite a lot of dissatisfaction with the producer in the scientific community. However, as I pointed out in my letter of the 9th September, we have no control over the editing. In the last analysis, I wonder whether programmes of this sort are useful, unless the scientists who contribute to them agree on the form the editing should take. We believe that the BBC turned what should have been an informed airing of a public issue into a piece of entertainment. This is, of course, a common complaint with the media, especially with television.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



E.S. Anderson

Professor Paul Berg,
Department of Biochemistry,
Stanford University,
Stanford,
California,
U.S.A.

P.S. As you may know, an international committee was formed at the Tokyo meeting of the International Association of Microbiological Societies in September this year, to monitor the hybrid plasmid field and to report back to the Executive Board of the IAMS. I have been invited to be a member of this Committee and have accepted.